

HOUSE RESOLUTION 268

By Turner L

A RESOLUTION to urge the State of Tennessee to impose a cigarette tax for education funding for public schools in the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, every local education agency operates pre-k, primary, and secondary educational programs in order to educate the young citizens of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the students and citizens served by public education in this state are competing both nationally and internationally in an increasingly global economy; and

WHEREAS, per pupil funding for public education in the State of Tennessee is well below the national average; and

WHEREAS, cigarettes are at once a harm to the health and well-being of the citizens of the State of Tennessee and a luxury to those citizens who choose to smoke; and

WHEREAS, this state and its local education agencies face substantial challenges in adequately funding early childhood education, alternative schools, and after school programs to help the less advantaged citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, alternative sources of funding will result in better educational and support services for all students, especially those in greatest need; and

WHEREAS, adequate funding for these programs is imperative to the success of the state's children, and hence its economy and total welfare of its people; thus, this most important issue must be addressed by this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that this General Assembly expresses its unwavering support for a fifty cents (\$.50) per pack tax on cigarettes

sold in the State of Tennessee for the purpose of providing additional funding for early childhood education, alternative schools, and after school programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funds raised from a fifty cents (\$.50) per pack tax on cigarettes be earmarked for additional funding for education and not be placed in the states general fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby urge and encourage the Governor to include such a fifty cents (\$.50) per tax pack on cigarettes within the administration's General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2006-2007.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Phil Bredesen, Governor of Tennessee, and to the Commissioners of the Department of Finance and Administration and the Department of Education.